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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

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DELIVERY MODE

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/798,437 | Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner AKWASI M. SARPONG | Art Unit 2625 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-28 and 43-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-28 and 43-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/27/2004, 11/12/2004, 11/21/2005, 01/17/2006,</u> <u>05/31/2006, 11/24/2008 and 08/12/2009.</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 15 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and unclearly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant claims the limitation “ wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. Prior to this limitation applicant has described two situations where the function keys will be pushed. Thus when a key is being assigned or a key is being pushed for execution. It is not clear among these two situations that the applicant is referring to. In other words it is clear if the key is being pushed for the assignment or for execution of the application.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28, 44-56 are also rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph because they depend on claims 1, 15 and 43.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-28 and 43-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikegami (6745334).

Claim 1, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing applications)** the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part **(Fig. 6 shows clearly a display)** displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing that can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** ; and

an assigning part **(Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34)** assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, **(Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 426 is set to the**

Art Unit: 2625

application mode of double-sided operation) such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. **(Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected and all these applications processed on the digital copier shown in Fig. 1)** and that include at least one of a copy application, **((Copy A and B 601 and 604)** and a printer application **(Printer button 610)** and a facsimile and **(FAX button 607)** application.

wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, **(Col. 8 lines 20-24- thus when the key is pressed)** the image forming apparatus displays a screen **(Col. 8 lines 24-25- thus when the key is pressed, display panel 620 presents a display settings for which paper cassette is supplied)** indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application **(Col. 8 lines 44-47- thus the key on the screen is caused to show as shaded to indicate that the key cannot be assigned or operated)** if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Col. 8 lines 60-64- if the screen indicates shaded**

Art Unit: 2625

then the maximum limit or number has been reached and therefore is impossible to assign more).

Claim 2, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 3, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 4, Ikegami discloses wherein assigning by the assigning part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 5, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 6, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus**) and an image for guiding a user to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus**)

Claim 7, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated**).

Claim 8,- (Cancelled)

Claim 9, Ikegami discloses the assigning part (**Inoue: Fig. 5 show a display for assigning functions**) including:

a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key (**Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172**) and

a part storing an application ID of the selected application (**Ikegami: Memory storing the application addresses in Fig. 2 EI. 174 and 175**) and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. (**Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means**)

Claim 10, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171**)

Claim 11, Ikegami discloses wherein when a function key (**Inoue: Col. 5 lines 28-36 Function key 404d**) to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible**)

Claim 12, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 13, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 14, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 15, Ikegami discloses a method used for assigning an application to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the method comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2625

displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus (**Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button**).

an assigning part (**Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34**) assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, (**Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 426 is set to the application mode of double-sided operation**) such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. (**Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it**)

wherein the function key (**Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application**) is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. (**Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected**) and that include at least one of a ((**Copy A and B 601 and 604**) and a printer application (**Printer button 610**) and a facsimile and (**FAX button 607**) application

wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, (**Col. 8 lines 20-24- thus when the key is pressed**) the image forming apparatus displays a screen (**Col. 8 lines 24-25- thus when the key is pressed, display panel 620**

Art Unit: 2625

presents a display settings for which paper cassette is supplied) indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application **(Col. 8 lines 44-47-thus the key on the screen is caused to show as shaded to indicate that the key cannot be assigned or operated)** if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Col. 8 lines 60-64-if the screen indicates shaded then the maximum limit or number has been reached and therefore is impossible to assign more).**

Claim 16, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key.

(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)

Claim 17, Ikegami wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 18, Ikegami wherein the step of assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 19, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen (**Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key**) indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made**)

Claim 20, Ikegami wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus**) and an image for guiding a user to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus**)

Claim 21, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated**).

Claim 22, (Cancelled)

Claim 23, Ikegami discloses wherein, in the step of assigning, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application ID of the selected application (**Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175**) and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. (**Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means**)

Claim 24, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigning to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171**)

Claim 25, Ikegami discloses wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigning is pushed, (**Ikegami: Col. 8 lines 26-31- thus Key 626 is for setting the application mode such as printer or fax and printer**) the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. (**Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is**

possible)

Claim 26, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 27, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 28, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows a plurality of applications such as Copy A & B, FAX and Printer)** in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 29-42-Cancelled,

Claim 43, Ikegami discloses a computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an application to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen **(Fig. 6 shows clearly a display)** used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and

an assigning part **(Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34)** assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, **(Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 426 is set to the application mode of double-sided operation)** such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. **(Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 EI. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications that are useable on the image

Art Unit: 2625

forming apparatus. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected)** and that include at least one of a copy application, **((Copy A and B 601 and 604)** and a printer application **(Printer button 610)** and a facsimile and **(FAX button 607)** application.

wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, **(Col. 8 lines 20-24- thus when the key is pressed)** the image forming apparatus displays a screen **(Col. 8 lines 24-25- thus when the key is pressed, display panel 620 presents a display settings for which paper cassette is supplied)** indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application **(Col. 8 lines 44-47-thus the key on the screen is caused to show as shaded to indicate that the key cannot be assigned or operated)** if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Col. 8 lines 60-64-if the screen indicates shaded then the maximum limit or number has been reached and therefore is impossible to assign more).**

Claim 44, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key.
(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)

Claim 45, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col.**

Art Unit: 2625

4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)

Claim 46, Ikegami discloses wherein assignment by the assigning program code means is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application).**

Claim 47, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 EI. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 48, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 49, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating the number of application assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).**

Claim 50, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating that the function cannot be assigned to the selected application number of applications assigned to the function already reaches a limit number. **(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

Claim 51, Ikegami discloses the assigning program code means including: program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

and program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 52, Ikegami wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the assigning program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Claim 53,-(Cancelled)

Claim 54, Ikegami discloses wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 55, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible).**

Claim 56, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** that is the same

Art Unit: 2625

as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Response to applicant's remark

The arguments filed by the applicant on 11/16/2009 has been considered but was not persuasive.

In regard to Claim 1, 15 and 43, applicant argues that Ikegami fails to disclose "when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number.

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagree because Ikegami discloses clearly wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, **(Col. 8 lines 20-24- thus when the key is pressed)** the image forming apparatus displays a screen **(Col. 8 lines 24-25- thus when the key is pressed, display panel 620 presents a display settings for which paper cassette is supplied)** indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application **(Col. 8 lines 44-47-thus the key on the screen is caused to show as shaded to indicate that the key cannot be assigned or operated)** if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Col. 8 lines 60-64-if the screen indicates shaded**

Art Unit: 2625

then the maximum limit or number has been reached and therefore is impossible to assign more).

(NB: Col. 8 lines 60-65- Understand that the application mode is the same as the functions a and therefore it is the functions or the application mode to the keys that has reached a maximum limit. it is not the physical keys on the control panel).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

AMS
01/26/2010.

Application/Control Number: 10/798,437
Art Unit: 2625

Page 22